

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ F. _____

Date: _____ March 29, 2007 _____

Topic: First Review of Proposed Schedule for the Adoption of History and Social Science Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Presenter: Dr. Linda Wallinger, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

X Board review required by
 X State or federal law or regulation
 _____ Board of Education regulation
 _____ Other: _____

X Action requested at this meeting _____ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

X No previous board review/action

_____ Previous review/action
 date _____
 action _____

Background Information: The Board of Education's authority for approving textbooks and other instructional materials is prescribed in the Virginia Constitution and in the *Code of Virginia*. The Board of Education's *Regulations Governing Textbook Adoption* specifies the types of materials that may be adopted.

Virginia Constitution; Art. VIII § 5 (d)

It [the Board of Education] shall have authority to approve textbooks and instructional aids and materials for use in courses in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-238

The Board of Education shall approve textbooks suitable for use in the public schools and shall have authority to approve instructional aids and materials for use in the public schools. Any school board may use textbooks not approved by the Board provided the school board selects such books in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

Regulations Governing Textbook Adoption 8 VAC 20-220-30

Only those materials which are designed to provide basic support for the instructional program of a particular content area at an appropriate level will be adopted.

Summary of Major Elements: During each recent textbook and instructional materials adoption, the Department of Education worked with a state committee to review and evaluate publishers' submissions with respect to correlation to the content of the Standards of Learning (SOL) and certain quality- and curriculum-related factors. Following each review, the Department of Education provided school divisions with a list of the adopted materials, which included detailed profiles of each adopted submission.

The importance of teachers using curricula and materials that are aligned to the Standards of Learning is a major factor contributing to student achievement of the standards. To ensure school divisions have access to textbooks and instructional materials that support the state standards, state textbook adoption in a SOL subject area should be conducted shortly after the standards are revised if current materials have been on the state contract for at least six years. It is anticipated that the History and Social Science Standards of Learning will be approved by the Board of Education by June 2008. The Department proposes that textbooks and instructional materials for history and social science be scheduled for adoption in 2009-2010. Attachment A provides a chart that illustrates the proposed timeline for adopting history and social science textbooks and instructional materials in relationship to other key SOL processes and dates.

Using an established review process and criteria, the Department of Education will administer the state adoption process for the Board of Education. The Department will submit a list of recommended materials to the Board for approval.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the proposed history and social science textbook and instructional materials review schedule.

Impact on Resources: The Department of Education's existing resources can absorb this responsibility at this time.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Additional information regarding adoption of textbook and instructional materials for other SOL subject areas will be provided for the Board's consideration later this year.

Textbook and Instructional Materials Adoption Schedule for History and Social Science
(Based on the seven-year revision cycle for the Standards of Learning)
March 29, 2007

Adoption Area	Anticipated SOL Adoption	SOL Curriculum Framework Adoption	State Textbook/ Instructional Materials Review	Expiration of Existing Contracts	LEA Textbook/ Materials Review	State Contract Date
History & Social Science	2008	2008	2009-2010	2009	2010	July 1, 2010

Standards of Learning Assessment Review and
Implementation